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REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on April 17, 2007. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1, 7-18, 22-28, 32 and 43-57, were pending. Claims 1, 7-17, 28, 32 and 43-57 were allowed. By way of the present response Applicants have: 1) amended claims 1, 18, 27, and 45; and 2) added no claims; and 3) canceled claims 22-26, without prejudice. As such, claims 1, 7-18, 27-28, 32, and 43-57 are now pending. Applicants have amended claim 1, as recommended by the Examiner, thus overcoming the claim objection. Further, allowed claim 45 was also amended in the same manner as claim 1, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, and thus, should still be allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and allowance of all claims now presented.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,938,847 by Akimoto et al. (hereinafter "Akimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,002,008 by Ushijima et al. (hereinafter "Ushijima").

The subject matter of dependent claims 22-26 has been incorporated into independent claim 18, and thus, should also be allowable since claim 26 has not been rejected. Claims 22-26 have been cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 18 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Akimoto* in view *Ushijima*.

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Allowable Subject Matter

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Claims 1 and 7-17, 28, 32 and 43-57 are allowed. Claims 26-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 26 and intervening claims 22-25, and thus, should now be allowable. Claim 27 now depends on claim 18 and should therefore also be allowable.

Applicants believe that pending claims 1, 7-18, 27-28, 32, and 43-57 should now all be allowable, thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

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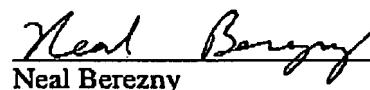
Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the rejections herein have been overcome. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Mr. Neal Berezny or Mr. Michael A. Bernadicou at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

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Neal Berezny

Registration No. 56,030

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300